

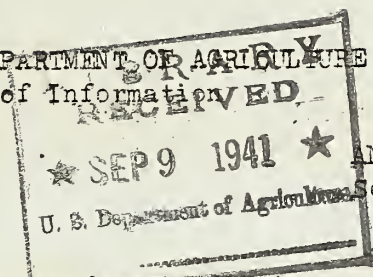
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information



PART I - ~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

SUMMARY OF CABLES ON FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS: UNITED KINGDOM: The Ministry of Food announced that in view of improvement in the supply situation restaurants, hotels, and other catering establishments will be allowed, effective September 22, one-tenth of an ounce of cheese per person for each meal served. The weekly ration for home consumption will continue at 3 ounces per person.

Crop production estimates based on September 1 conditions will probably show little change from estimates based on August 1 conditions except in the case of grain which was somewhat damaged by difficult harvesting conditions. General rains with little interruption prevailed during August. In some areas wheat sprouted badly in shocks, and in other areas it was beaten down. Fruit crops generally are poor. It is believed that the apple and pear crops will be only about one-third of normal.

GERMANY: Rations of all principal foodstuffs for the period September 22, 1941, to October 19, 1941, remain the same as in the preceding rationing period. All consumers except self-providers will receive 170 grams of condensed milk in place of 62.5 grams of cheese and will again be given 125 grams of rice in lieu of an equal quantity of alimentary pastes. Civilian prisoners and prisoners of war, as well as Poles in camps and Jews, will not share in the condensed milk allotment. The sale of legumes in place of alimentary pastes will be discontinued.

GREECE: The Axis Powers have taken measures to prevent "at least temporarily" the contemplated 50 percent reduction in the bread ration in Greece "pending a general solution of the bread supply." The Berlin authorities realize that the prolonged and serious Greek food shortage, which has resulted in almost famine conditions, has defeated German efforts to date to win cooperation with the new order on the part of the Greek population. Reports indicate that the present daily ration of 185 grams of low quality bread is entirely inadequate for conditions under which the Greeks must live, particularly since it is almost impossible to obtain such foodstuffs as potatoes, vegetables, meat, and even native fruit and fish, except at exorbitant prices on the black market. The situation is greatly aggravated in Greece, a country extremely deficient in domestic food supply and to which apparently no considerable quantities of food have been sent by Germany, by the fact that the armies of occupation of Germany and Italy are living off the country and their purchases take priority on the local market. The Athens authorities, according to reports, have been promised that some 150,000 tons of grain and 20,000 tons of sugar will be shipped to Greece from Turkey, or even from Germany itself.

It appears, therefore, that measures to relieve the situation are believed being taken by the German authorities. The scope of any such program, however, may be limited by the deterioration recently of the German cereal crops owing to bad weather.

MANCHURIA: Due mainly to acreage expansion the production of kaoliang, millet, corn, and barley is expected to be larger than last year. Despite somewhat reduced plantings the production of wheat and flue-cured tobacco, because of better yields, is also expected to show an increase. At present the 1941 wheat crop is estimated at 31,232,000 bushels compared with 27,557,000 bushels in 1940. The flue-cured tobacco crop is estimated at 37,700,000 pounds compared with 36,000,000 last season. The acreage in perilla seed, rice, cotton, sugar beets, and flax was increased and a larger production is anticipated if weather continues favorable. Reports continue to indicate smaller soybean plantings, perhaps by as much as 10 percent. Because of better yields, however, the crop may amount to 3,200,000 metric tons, the same as last year.

Manchurian authorities expect an improvement in collections over the poor results of 1940. Total commitments for deliveries of soybeans and wheat are reported as already exceeding actual collections from the 1940 crops. However, actual deliveries under all contracts is doubtful. Moreover, collections of miscellaneous grains is likely to be unsatisfactory due to their local use for human food and to the active demand for such grain in the illegitimate market.

BRAZIL: The second estimate for the 1940-41 cotton crop in Southern Brazil indicates a production of 1,908,000 bales of 478 pounds each, compared with 1,511,000 bales in 1939-40. The latest estimate places the crop in Northern Brazil this year at 615,000 bales compared with 630,000 bales a year ago. Apparently, therefore, the total 1940-41 Brazilian cotton crop is in the neighborhood of 2,523,000 bales, an all-time record, compared with 2,141,000 bales in 1939-40.

THIS WEEK A MOST MOMENTOUS ONE FOR AGRICULTURE. On Monday, September 8, Secretary Wickard announces from San Francisco on Farm and Home Hour, the Department's decision to go out on a "FOOD-FOR-FREEDOM" campaign asking farmers to do their best within sound farming practices to produce enough food to "win the war and write the peace."

THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT IS FORERUNNER of four regional conferences to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 15 and 16; Chicago, September 18 and 19; New York City, September 24 and 25; and Memphis, Tenn., September 29 and 30, where goals on major food crops will be discussed and plans laid out for State Defense Boards to begin a campaign for increased production where needed.

EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO SAFEGUARD FARMERS against possible repercussions. Don't want to ask farmers to build up supplies and then see prices drop because of stockpiles. Proclamation issued in conjunction with announcement guarantees 85 percent of parity on evaporated milk, dried milk, cheese, eggs, chickens, and hogs. Other items may be added to guaranteed price list as needs arise. Guarantee is good through calendar year of 1942.

SUCH A PROGRAM HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME WEEKS, but Secretary held back until price guarantees could be established, and until whole production problem could be surveyed to determine goals.

The Secretary's statement is as follows:

"For the first time in the history of agriculture in this country production goals for all essential farm commodities have been established. They have been established on the basis of a thorough canvass of the needs for improved nutrition in this country and the needs of the nations that still stand between this country and Hitler.

"Every farmer in the United States will be contacted by local farmer committeemen under the supervision of USDA Defense Boards and will assist with individual farm plans to determine the extent to which each farm can contribute to agriculture's task in national defense.

"The adjustment machinery of the National Farm Program will be applied to the whole range of agricultural commodities to assure plenty of the commodities for which there is increased need while continuing to hold in check the production of commodities of which we already have large reserves.

"We are not going to repeat the mistakes of the first World War which brought a long series of difficulties for farm people. Through the machinery of the National Farm Program farmers can produce what we need and avoid the bad aftereffects of an overexpanded farm plant. The fact that we are asking for greatly increased production of some commodities does not mean that the lid is off on production of all commodities. It is just as important to national defense and our future national welfare that we hold production of some commodities in check as that we increase supplies of others.

"The goals for 1942 call for the largest production in the history of American agriculture but we are not going to have to plow up the hills and the plains to get it. We have adequate reserves of feed grains for increased production of livestock products and it will not be necessary materially to increase total crop acreage next year.

"Farm production in general is in good balance but greatly increased supplies of some commodities will be needed. In this emergency I have found it necessary to encourage the expansion of the production of hogs, eggs, evaporated milk, dry skim milk, cheese, and chickens, and accordingly I have today made a formal public announcement that the Department of Agriculture will support prices for these commodities until December 31, 1942, at not less than 85 percent of parity. Increases in the production of other crops in 1942 are also desirable as indicated by the goals. Other proclamations may be issued from time to time if it is found that special encouragement is needed to obtain adequate or desired supplies, or supplies which are considerably in excess of what farmers might otherwise be expected to produce.

"This public announcement is issued under the recent Congressional authorization contained in the Stegall amendment to the act of July 1, 1941, extending the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Under the terms of that act, whenever the Secretary of Agriculture finds it necessary during the existing emergency to encourage the expansion of production of any non-basic agricultural commodity, the Department is required, within the limit of the funds available, to support a price for the producers at not less than 85 percent of parity.

"Of all the farm commodities of which increases are needed, the most urgent need is for more milk. We need to consume more dairy products in this country for improved health and strength and the British will need tremendous quantities of cheese, evaporated milk, and dried skim milk. To reach the production goals for 1942 the greatest effort will be required in dairying."

PRODUCTION GOALS IN GENERAL REFLECT SUGGESTED OR EXPECTED production substantially larger than in recent years for livestock, adequate supplies of feed grains to supply increased livestock production, expanded production of oil-producing crops (peanuts outside of allotments for oil only, and soybeans), and continuation at about current level of production or less for cotton, wheat, and tobacco.

GOALS FOR 1942 PROVIDE FOR A TOTAL FARM PRODUCTION 15 percent larger than 1924-29 average. If goals are reached it will be the third successive year of record agricultural production.

BRITAIN EXPECTS TO OBTAIN FROM THIS COUNTRY about a fourth of its supply of animal protein foods -- enough to feed 10 million people. Total British needs for U. S. farm products are expected to amount to about 6 to 8 percent of the U. S. farm production. Total exports, including Lend-Lease shipments, expected to account for 8 to 10 percent of total production.

EXPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1942-43 MAY REQUIRE the product of 25 to 27.5 million acres of cropland. Program doesn't contemplate the plowing up of new lands and pasture lands. Rather a shift to food and feed crops.

Here are some of the more important goals:

Commodity	Unit	1936-40 Average	Est. 1941	1942 goal or expected production
Milk	Lbs.	106,640,000,000	116,809,000,000	125,000,000,000
Eggs	Doz.	3,400,000,000	3,676,000,000	4,000,000,000
Hogs	Number Slaughtered	63,196,000	71,000,000	79,300,000
Chickens	"	644,000,000	680,000,000	750,000,000

